



80 Fern Drive · Torrington, CT 06790

860·482·7668

860·482·3963

[www.paradigmhd.com](http://www.paradigmhd.com)

February 5, 2015

*Written testimony of Jim Thompson, Administrator, Paradigm Healthcare Center of Torrington Regarding*

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>

**\*Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>

Good evening Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Jim Thompson and I have been the Administrator for Paradigm Healthcare Center of Torrington in Torrington, Connecticut for the past 3 years. Paradigm Healthcare Center of Torrington is a quaint 75 bed facility, and has been providing both personal and quality care in the community of Litchfield County for the past 50 years. It staffs approximately 130 dedicated individuals with several long-tenured employees with 30 or more years.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the state legislators who introduced these desperately needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. In addition, I would like to thank the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all address the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. These bills recognize that nursing facilities cannot continue to provide the appropriate amount of services if this trend continues. The passing of these bills provide a rate increase by means of an annual cost of living adjustment or through a formula that increases rates based on the nursing facilities costs.

My message is simple. Our facility, as well as many others, needs your help. Continuing in this current direction greatly impacts the quality of care for our residents and places a heavy burden on their care providers.

The following are just a few of the examples we have faced since the lack of rate increases have not existed over the past several years:

- As our facilities age, unanticipated and costly issues beyond the scope of routine maintenance become more prevalent.
- Expectations to continually improve the environment of care and the programs we provide for our residents in order to comply with the culture change in nursing Homes.
- Federal mandating of implementation of Electronic Medical Records.
- Drastic increases of uncontrollable expenses such as electricity, natural gas, and healthcare costs associated with the Affordable Care Act.
- Increased costs for new background checks requirements.

I am asking that you please advance these bills so that we may have the ability to provide the best care for our nursing facilities and our residents.

I thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Jim Thompson

Administrator, Paradigm Healthcare Center of Torrington

80 Fern Drive, Torrington 06790

860-94-7300